

**BANK OF AMERICA-MERRILL LYNCH
MERGER**

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: and the Subcommittee on Domestic Policy continued joint hearings entitled “Bank of America and Merrill Lynch: How did a Private Deal Turn Into a Federal Bailout? Part IV. “ Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2009**

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3791, the “Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009”. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science and Technology. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.

The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the report. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments made in order except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that the Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Science and Technology or a designee. Finally, the rule provides that the Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill. Testimony was heard from Representatives Gordon, Holden, and Smith of Nebraska.

MOLALLA RIVER PROTECTIONS

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2781, “To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Molalla River in Oregon, as

components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes”. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Grijalva and Hastings of Washington.

**SECURITY SCIENCE—ADVANCED
RADIATION MONITORS**

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight continued hearings on The Science of Security Part II; Technical Problems Continue to Hinder Advanced Radiation Monitors. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Gene Aloise, Director, Natural Resources and Environment; and Timothy M. Persons, Chief Scientist; the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Todd Owen, Executive Director, Cargo and Conveyance Security, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and William Hagan, Acting Deputy Director, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

U.S. TRADE PREFERENCE PROGRAMS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing on the Operation, Impact and Future of the U.S. Preference Programs. Testimony was heard from Representatives McDermott, Linda T. Sánchez of California, and Engel; Tim Reif, General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; Sandra Polaski, Deputy Under Secretary, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Department of Labor; Mary Ott, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Economic Growth, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State; Burnham Philbrook, Deputy Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA; Loren Yager, Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO; and public witnesses.

BRIEFING—SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Significant Activities. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.